



News Release

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DLEG Provides Tips for Enjoying Carnival-Amusement Rides Safely

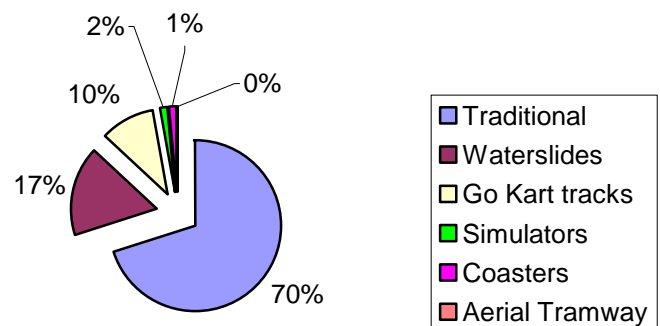
May 28, 2004 – Memorial Day weekend is synonymous with carnivals and amusement rides, so Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director David C. Hollister offers some tips to help keep families safe while having fun.

The DLEG Bureau of Commercial Services and its Michigan Carnival-Amusement Safety Board are responsible for the inspections approximately 900 rides located at traveling shows, amusement parks and fixed locations.

The state regulates a variety of amusement rides in both fixed and mobile locations. These include not only the traditional merry-go-rounds and ferris wheels but also roller coasters, water slides, simulators and go-karts.

“Michigan has seen a trend in fewer accidents reported in recent years on the state’s amusement rides, and we are hoping this summer is no exception,” Hollister said. “So far this year through May 20, we’ve had four accidents reported, and we want to keep that figure as low as possible to protect the safety of our families. Most accidents are the result of rider error rather than mechanical failure so it’s important for people to follow the simple, common-sense rider safety requirements to protect themselves and the safety of those around them.”

Regulated Rides by Type



The Rider Safety Requirements include:

- Obey the posted safety rules and oral instructions from the ride operator.
- Do use safety devices at all times.
- Do not extend your arms or legs beyond the seating area.
- Do not swing or bounce on rides unless instructed.
- Do not disconnect or disable safety devices.
- Get off ride properly at the designated time and place.

Hollister said adults should also take an active role in choosing rides that are appropriate for children. State law requires parents and guardians to make the judgment that their charges meet the rider restrictions and are physically able to ride.

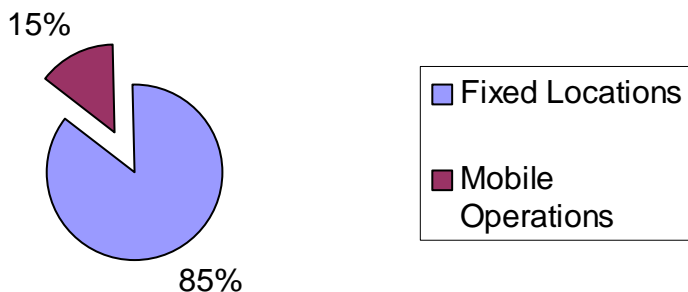
“Parents should watch a ride and its operation before deciding if their children should go on,” Hollister said. “Safety experts advise that one adult chaperone accompany every two children so he or she can closely supervise their activities. It is also important to stop going on rides before getting tired.”

(more)

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Parents and riders should take note of the rider restrictions that are posted at every ride in the State of Michigan. These signs give instructions and requirements for riders to use the ride. This information comes from the ride's manufacturer, but may be more restrictive if the operator chooses. A very common restriction is **minimum rider height**. It is important that riders comply with these requirements.

Regulated Rides by Fixed v. Mobile



Inflatable devices such as "Moonwalks" and air supported slides are increasingly common, but they are not covered by the Michigan Carnival-Amusement Safety Act. Parents and users of these devices should exercise caution before riding. Most accidents on these rides are due to inadequate operations. Most often:

- Too many riders using a ride at the same time.
- Roughhousing.
- Substandard anchorages (either weights or tethers).

The State law requires consumers to promptly report any injuries before leaving the premises. Consumers should notify the ride owner or operator, the amusement park or sponsoring organization, and the DLEG Carnival-Amusement Safety Board. The DLEG Carnival-Amusement Board Consumer Complaint Hotline is (517) 241-9202. For a list of 2004 county fairs, a list of mobile operations, and other carnival information, please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/amusement>.

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